

NORTH

NOTES



2010 NORTH SOFTBALL TEAM

AUGUST 2010
NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WHERE SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS MEET

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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NORTH NOTES

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SUNDAYS AT NORTH

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Our Mission:

North Church invites, welcomes, and encourages all people to become deeply committed Christians who witness God's transforming love at home and in the world.



NORTH STAFF

Senior Pastor (on renewal leave):
Kevin R. Armstrong

Pastor of Discipleship &
Formation (Interim Senior
Pastor): Lisa D. Schubert

Pastor of Care & Nurture:
Richard L. Pickering

Pastor of Mission & Outreach:
Brian K. Williams

Minister of Youth:
Anne Moman

Director of Music:
Mark Gilgallon

Organist & Assistant Director of
Music:
Martin Ellis

Faith Community Nurse:
Pat Thornton

Assistant to the Senior Pastor:
Nancy Fykes

Interim Business Administrator:
Jessica White

Financial Secretary:
Dolores Heaton

Lead Office Assistant:
Nancy Sala

Office Assistant:
Marcia Lurie, Aaron Hurt

Facilities Staff:
James Fields, Derric Gearlds,
Estell McAllister

Building Engineer:
Dave Damin

INTERSECTIONS



Keys to Being Senior Pastor

During his last sermon before renewal leave, Kevin Armstrong symbolically tossed me his keys. We all laughed at the gesture, which was particularly funny considering my North key ring contains many more than his already, including a key to his office. (Shh ... don't let him know!) With those keys, Kevin reminded us that I was temporarily in charge and responsible, come hell or high water.

Thankfully, hell only appeared a few days this summer. And we had a bigger problem with *no* water than high water. Instead, those keys offered me a tremendous opportunity to learn, grow, and discover what it means to lead a congregation.

The first thing I gained was a deeper sense of this faith community. I couldn't have navigated this experience without a dedicated staff working hard; a wise pastoral colleague mentoring me; and a supportive congregation encouraging and helping me every step of the way. I'm grateful for your prayers, laughter, meals, and listening ears.

I also learned that being senior pastor has unique challenges, especially in a diverse congregation engaged in so many ministries, a building project, Party in the Park, intern hospitality, and staff transition. While I've tried to become more agile in juggling those responsibilities, I've also learned how to seek grace when I fail to keep something in the air.

Finally, I've witnessed a new dimension in the power of prayer. When I assumed the reins, one of my friends told me she hoped I was "prayed up" for this role. That was her way of saying I should be spiritually grounded in God before catching the senior pastor keys. Throughout this summer, I've felt that grounding become even deeper as we've walked through sacred spaces together.

I look forward to our next steps on the journey. I hope you'll join me on Sunday, August 15th as I toss the senior pastor keys back to Kevin, first in worship and then in a luncheon after church. I'm excited to report about our summer, hear about Kevin's time away, and share together our "key" experiences.

Shalom,

Lisa

NORTH LIFE

Construction News

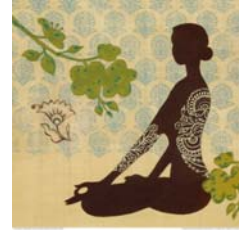
The north drive to Meridian Street permanently closed on July 21st with the beginning of construction on the north side. When construction is completed in that area bollards will be placed in the narrower drive at Meridian Street and just east of the parking area, closing the drive to vehicular traffic past the parking access. Bicycle and pedestrian traffic will still be able to use the drive. This will accomplish two things: allow for the drainage changes needed on the north side and elimination of what amounts to a high speed alley through our property that is dangerous to pedestrians and has resulted in damage to the building on a number of occasions.



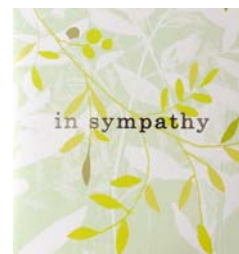
There will be short term disruption in the northeast parking area to excavate and lay new drain pipes. The parking will be available as much as possible during construction, so you may have to park in a different area of our lots from time to time until work is completed.

Overall, work is proceeding well.

Meditation/Contemplative Prayer Tuesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m. in the Chapel



This is an opportunity to develop a practice of meditation/contemplative prayer by participating in silence with others. A goal is to keep coming back to the present moment, time after time, without judgment. The silent time is preceded by a short reading, an explanation of methods if needed, and any questions you might have. Three gongs initiate and end the silent period. You may practice as you are familiar or try something new. You do not need previous experience to participate. “The root of prayer is interior silence,” said Thomas Keating. In a society of much noise and distraction, this is an opportunity to go inside and experience the power of a voice within.



Sympathy to the family of Alta Richardson who died July 2nd.

Sympathy to Nellie Phillips and family on the death of her husband, George on July 4th.

Party in the Park Story

By Teri Crouse

- ❖ “More people I didn’t know than I could possibly meet!”
- ❖ Over 190 children registered for the event.
- ❖ More than 400 people attending each night.
- ❖ Laughing, singing, dancing, clapping to jazz, drums, and more.
- ❖ The sight and sound of a little girl crying on the last evening because Party in the Park was over.

How do we describe an event like Party in the Park? It started off as a replacement for North’s usual summer offering of Vacation Bible School, but it grew into so much more than that. Party in the Park – or “PIP” as it became known as to its planners – was an experiment in Radical Hospitality for North Church. Was it successful? Judge for yourself.

Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, notes that hospitality is more than common politeness, name tags, or visitor parking spaces – even though those are important. Hospitality is a quality of spiritual initiative, the practice of an active and genuine love, a graciousness unaffected by self-interest, an opening of ourselves and our faith community to receive others.



Similarly, “radical” means “arising from the source” and describes practices rooted in the life of Christ and that radiate into the lives of others. Bishop Schnase states that churches and

congregations that are radically hospitable aren’t just friendly and courteous; they don’t just passively receive their visitors warmly. They exhibit a restlessness because they realize there are so many people who do not have a relationship with a faith community. They pray, plan and work to invite others and to help them feel welcome and to support them in their faith journeys.

Nearly everyone who was part of PIP had something positive to say about it, whether it was about the many new connections made with neighbors from areas surrounding the church, or about the sharing of food amidst conversation and laughter, or about dancing to the terrific music from the musicians who shared their gifts each night. Over 100 volunteers donated their time, energy and creativity to make PIP a reality.



One of the volunteer health care emergency workers commented that prior to attending PIP, he never would’ve imagined that North Church would or could put on an event as entertaining as PIP was. A “pumps and pearls sort of place” was how he previously saw North; PIP changed his viewpoint. The ideas that



some of North’s other neighbors may have had – ideas that may have made North seem intimidating or inaccessible – might have been punctured,

even just a little, through three nights of storytelling, game-playing, music, singing, dancing, eating, laughing, and sharing in the joy of each others’ company.

The people of North Church stepped out of the box; out of their comfort zone to put on Party in the Park for the purpose of exploring the boundaries of Radical Hospitality. This was unknown territory.

Radical Hospitality goes to the extremes, and it does so joyfully, knowing the invitation is that of Christ. Interim Senior Pastor Lisa Schubert said she “thought it was a phenomenal event,” and called it “exciting.”

Was North successful in its foray in Radical Hospitality? Time will tell. What do you think?

The Book Nook

There are two other "pastors as authors" that we have in the library. David Owen has written a delightful book *Wending Our Way*, which is available in our library. It was recently used as a study guide in a small group gathering and greatly enjoyed, bringing about good discussions. If you haven't read it, it is a must. He has also authored *Getting There from Here* and *Transparent Worship*. He is co-author of *Ritual in a New Day*.

Also added to our library are two offerings by Stephen Johnson, an associate minister at North in the 1980's. He has written about his life in *Victory School*, which is the same title of a CD containing songs that he has written and performed. Check them both out at your friendly library on the second floor.

And please don't forget to **sign out** all materials. Several items have walked away without signatures on the check-out card. We all learned how to check-out items at our grade school libraries, so let's not forget to put our knowledge into practice. Thanks!



Congratulations to Michael & Liane Hulka on the birth of Oliver William Hulka born June 3rd. Grandparents are Bill & Phyllis Groth.

School #43 In-gathering

Please check out the bulletin boards across from the Chapel and in the hallway outside the Parlor for Information about this year's Mission Project for James Whitcomb Riley, I.P.S. School #43, located at the corner of 40th St and Capital Avenue. Continuing a decade-long tradition of support for the students – and now the faculty – of our neighborhood school, you will find lists of needed school supplies and removable tags for specific teaching/classroom aids requested by the faculty.

Your support in previous years has provided pencils, glue sticks, paper, tissues, school uniforms, hand sanitizer, underwear, games for indoor recess, flash cards, bean bag chairs for reading corners and countless other teaching aids for the students and faculty of School #43. Your generosity has made a tremendous, positive impact on the academic success of the student body!



Donations will be gathered until the week of August 23rd. The collection "tub" will be in the West entry each Sunday or items can be dropped off at the office if that is more convenient. That week North volunteers and School #43 tutors will sort all of your contributions and distribute them to the classroom teachers and support staff at the school.

If you take a tag for a specific item, we would appreciate your returning it with the item to help streamline sorting. If you are contributing gently used items, please make sure that all of the pieces and parts are included and that items are clean and ready to use.

We thank you for your continued support! This North Church Mission Project epitomizes the meaning of being a true neighbor. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Hefner at pmhefner@sbcglobal.net or 255-2372. Many thanks!

Deferred Maintenance Update

If you haven't noticed, construction is well underway at the church. Much of what is being done isn't really visible, and we're glad. We're trying hard to complete this deferred maintenance work without any interruption to our ministries at North. Thanks to our contractors for making an effort to keep things as clean as possible and for working around our busy schedule at the church.

Here is a quick update on what is happening:

- **Lighting.** The sanctuary chandeliers are being restored a few at a time. You may notice a few temporary replacements over the summer. The under balcony ceiling restoration is under way. This ceiling was not original to the church; the new will be more period correct and provide an improved look.
- **Courtyard.** Excavation for new drainage has begun and the courtyard is a mess. There is a landscape plan for the new courtyard on display in the West Entry. This new plan will provide for more usage and gathering as we will be able to install tenting over a smoother surface. The design also provides for more intimate contemplation spots, a "memorial book of honor," replacement of the bell memorial, more benches and seating, and restoration of the various artifacts and memorials. And, there will be dogwoods.
- **General excavation.** There have been issues with digging in this aged site. We had our water line collapse after digging around it. The old line was so deteriorated that when the soil was removed the pipe could not sustain the water pressure. We now have an entire new line from the shutoff valve in the street to our building.
- **Basement.** The basement floor has been excavated and re-piped and concrete re-poured.

- The hallway is open again and the basement restrooms available again. The robing room will undergo a good deal of additional construction.
- **Energy Conservation.** Devices have been installed on our HVAC equipment that will conserve on our energy usage going forward. We do not have utility bills in hand yet to report on the effectiveness. Thanks to the installation company for their donation to our capital campaign.

If you have further questions, please contact Troy Barker, Building Committee Chair, Dave Damin, Building Engineer, or Jessica White, Interim Business Administrator.

It's Almost Time for Team Habitat!

North Church is partnering with metro Indy United Methodist Churches to build a home at 849 River Road. We'll help build this home for a family that has relocated to Indianapolis from Ethiopia. Meet the family:

- * Parent's: Hidat Ghebremedhin and Tesfaye Wurota
- * Children: Masho and Yemane (Both boys)
- * Hidat was born in Eritrea in 1967 and worked with the American Embassy for about 6 years before coming to the United States in 2004.
- * Tesfaye and the two boys were in an Ethiopian refugee camp for three years before they flew to the United States in 2005.
- * The family currently lives on Indy's Westside in an apartment and they are excited about building their new home.

Stay tuned for more information in September on ways you can help support North's team Habitat!



Members of the 2009 North Habitat Crew

NEW MEMBERS

Cynthia Bigbee

Cynthia is retired from Diamond Chain and Link Belt companies after combined employment of 45 years. She is interested in serving the homeless and wherever needed in addition to working with crafts and decorations. She found North Church through several friends of hers who are members.

Jim Carpenter

Jim, was originally from Ft. Wayne but has lived here for many years. He likes to volunteer to help others and currently volunteers at The Children's Museum. When not otherwise busy, Jim likes to bowl and fish.

David and Emily Glover

This couple's life is full of music. David plays violin with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Emily plays first violin with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and also subs with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Both want to be involved in outreach- David working with Habitat for Humanity and Emily working with newborn and/or adoptive babies. Since Emily is adopted, this area is particularly important to her. In addition to music Emily enjoys yoga and David, history and politics.

Margaret Greene

Margaret's introduction to North Church was through her sister, member, Mary Owens and we're so glad she decided to stay and join. Although retired Margaret runs a small daycare in her home. She enjoys gardening and crafts and is joining North United Methodist Women.

Joli Heavin

Jolie was born in Frankfurt, Germany. She is married to Matt and she is Director of Alumni and Donor Relations for Purdue University musical organizations. (Take note Stewardship Committee.) Our choir and our commitment to diversity influenced Joli's decision to join the church. She is interested in working with Bread 'n Bowl, mission trips and helping with children in Sunday School. The couple has two cats, Ella and Pacer, and a dog, Becks.

Carole Johnson

Carole is an Administrative Assistant in Athletics for Indianapolis Public Schools. The opportunities for service and outreach attracted her to North. She would like to work in Bread 'n Bowl, go on mission trips, tutor children and be involved with the care team. Carole enjoys reading, knitting, movies and antiques. She has a "sassy" cat, Allie.

Sean Reilly and Katie Spence

This couple is engaged and will soon be married. Sean is a Budget Analyst for the Indiana Office of Management and Budget and Katie is Program Director for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Sean enjoys golf, just being outside, and music while Katie likes to play tennis, walk and read. Both are interested in Habitat for Humanity. Their cat, Nikki lives with them.

NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

What's New at the Farmer's Market?

Potluck and family dinners! Due to a growing interest in creating healthy meals and sharing recipes, the Farmer's Market will host the following events:



Potluck dinner - July 29th at 6:30 p.m. Locations: between the Community Room and south lawn of North church. April Hammerand, our Beef vendor, will host. April is promoting this potluck dinner through her facebook page where participants can sign up to bring a covered dish, preferably all natural or made with things from the garden.



Family dinners – 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Location: Fellowship Hall. Clarian Hospital will host a series of healthy cooking sessions. These sessions will introduce participants to various and inexpensive ways to prepare healthier meals in an effort to help reduce diseases that are prevalent in our neighborhood such as diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension. Dates are as follows: August 19th, September 16th, and October 21st.

If you have a submission for North Notes, please send the article electronically to Nancy Fykes at nfykes@northchurchindy.com by the 10th of each month. Not all articles will be published, and all articles are subject to editing and review.